THE HINDOO PATRIOT

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Per Annum in Advance
TOWN 11-8
MOFUSSIL 13-4

THE WEEK.

MONDAY, 13TH FEBRUARY.

THE Viceroy has personally addressed the Dalai Lama of Lhassa with regard to the Sikkim question, saying that he desires to be on terms of friendship with Thibet.

LADY REAY's fancy fair proved a great success. The big *tamasha* lasted for three days, during which time it was largely patronised by different classes of the people.

A NUMBER of English capitalists have already applied for permission to construct a railway in Burmah, and for a concession of the land required for the purpose. They do not ask for any guarantee. The proposed line would run between Martaban and Shwegyin. Colonel Cumming, R. E., has been deputed to inspect the country.

THE oldest bank-note in existence is said to be one now preserved in the Asiatic Museum at St. Petersburg. Its date corresponds to 1399, B.C.; and it was issued by the Chinese Government. The note bears the name of the Imperial Bank, date and number of issue and the signature of a Mandarin, and contains a list of the punishments to be inflicted for forgery of notes.

AN electric dog-cart for ordinary roads has recently been devised by Mr. Magnus Volk, of the Brighton Electric Railway. The electric current which drives the cart is supplied by six accumulators, which, when fully charged, are good for a six hours' run. These accumulators are placed under the seat. Experiments made with this electrically driven cart show that on asphalte a speed of nine miles an hour can be obtained, whereas on a soft macadam road only four miles an hour are possible. With a load of two persons a grade of one in thirty can be surmounted. If the *Electrician* is correct in stating the ordinary speed to be four miles an hour, the practical advantages of this new mode of locomotion are somewhat questionable. Certainly the "vision of a country where all the roads are paved with asphalte, and every one travels on his own electric carriage at forty miles an hour," is not likely soon to be realized.

AYUB KHAN is expected to arrive in India in April. He will be sent to reside in the Pindi district.

SIR CHARLES BERNARD, according to the *Overland Mail*, is in the list of those permitted to return to duty. He is expected in India on the 1st of March.

THE four appeals arising out of the suit against the estate of the late Maharaja of Bulrampore, and which were consolidated by an order of Her Majesty-in-Council are to be heard this session by the Judicial Committee, and judging from the printed cases of both Appellants and Respondents which have reached this country, are likely to occupy their Lordships' time for a whole week. The Senior Maharani will be represented by Sir Horace Davey, Q. C.; Mr. R. Doyne and Mr. C. W. Arathoon: the Junior Maharani by Mr. Finlay Q. C.; Mr. J. D. Mayne and Mr. T. Forbes: and the adopted son by Sir Charles Russell and Mr. Brook Little.

THE *Pioneer* says that "Sir Mackenzie Wallace will return to England with the Viceroy, and resume a literary career."

RUMOURS of the annexation of Sind to the Punjab gather detail. The Lahore paper is informed that it is freely stated at Karachi that Mr. Prichard, the Commissioner in Sind, comes shortly to Lahore to discuss the preliminaries of the annexation, which will take a very long time; and that Dr. Pollen will officiate as Commissioner in his place.

In Buda-Pesth a Russian professor, who arrived some time ago, has been arrested, having been observed to purchase all the military maps and charts which he could procure. His papers are said to contain compromising matter, and much money was found upon him. He refuses to give any explanations on the plea of being a Russian subject.

ASTRONOMERS say that the planet Neptune is so far from the earth that if Adam and Eve had from the first day of their existence started on a train and traversed steadily, day and night, at the rate of thirty miles an hour, towards it, they would by this time have travelled only a little more than half the distance to the vaporous orb.

TUESDAY, 14TH FEBRUARY.

THE largest serpent of which accurate measurements have been taken and noted was an anaconda which Dr. Gardner found dead and suspended to the fork of a tree during his travels in Mexico. It was found to measure 37ft. in length. Inside it were discovered the bones and flesh of a horse in a half-digested state, and there was no doubt that it had swallowed the animal whole.

ENGINEERS have been appointed by the Government of India for the frontier defence works, sites for which are being selected in Upper Sind and on the frontier.

THE Commissioners, who have been engaged in discussing and arranging the North American Fisheries dispute, are quite in accord in holding that the treaty which has been concluded, relates only and solely to disputes arising regarding fisheries on the North Atlantic Coast.

THE rules for regulating the procedure of the House of Commons, now before the House, provide for the sittings commencing earlier, for the application of the closure if the majority consists of hundred members or more, gives power to the Speaker to order disorderly Members to withdraw, and to stop Members from speaking on matters irrelevant to the subject before the House.

SPECIFICATIONS of the undermentioned inventions have been filed:—Henry Hamilton Remfry, Solicitor, Calcutta, for a mode of preventing induction in telegraphy, telephony, and the like, and apparatus therefor, and also for improvements in automatic telegraphy and apparatus used therefor, parts of which are applicable to ordinary telegraphy; James Wainwright and Henry Briggs, Manchester, for improvements in automatic fire-extinguishing apparatus; and Evan Rowlands, of Melbourne, for improved apparatus for drawing aerated liquids from fonts or reservoirs.

THE honour of a Grand Cross of the Order of Christ has been conferred on his Excellency Lord Reay by the Portuguese Government on the occasion of the opening of the West of India Portuguese Railway line.

MR. RISLEY's ethnographic survey, which has been in progress in Bengal during the past three years, is now approaching completion. 'A volume of "The Tribes and Castes of Bengal" is now partly in type, and will be published in the course of the year. It deals with the customs and marriage systems of all the castes and tribes in the province. The second volume will deal with the large subject of physical characteristics, giving measurements of most of the tribes in Northern India, extending as far as the Punjab frontier. An attempt will be made, it is said, to distinguish the main types now discernible in the people of that region, and to determine how far these types correspond with the divisions based on language.'

'SIR MOREL MACKENZIE has just refused a nice little douceur of 30,000 dol., which was offered to him if he would run across the "mill-pond" to see one of the innumerable "leading citizens" in the States. He, however, was unwilling to undertake a journey that would place him out of reach of his illustrious patient at San Remo, even for a short time. He will, however, probably go a little out of his way in returning from Italy in order to call professionally at Barcelona. £6,000 is, probably, the biggest thing in the way of a single medical fee that has been heard of in our day. Sir Morel himself got a thousand guineas for going to Cannes to see Mr. Stirling Crawfurd, and Dr. Montagu and Dr. Hahn had the same amount for coming from Berlin to Mr. Montagu Williams. Sir Henry Thompson received £2,000 (of which he returned half) for his attentions to poor old "Badingnet"; but these are "unconsidered trifles" compared with the fee Sir Morel Mackenzie has declined.'—*Truth*.

ACCORDING to the *World*, the Emperor of Germany has lost all faculty for counting figures. Dates or the cost of anything convey no longer any meaning to him; but on other subjects he is still sufficiently clear-headed. He always comes up smiling after each fresh attack and the strong remedies employed, and notwithstanding that he might any morning not wake up. Those who see him when he is at his best say that they will not believe he is dead until they attend his funeral.

WEDNESDAY, 15TH FEBRUARY.

IT is said "on authority" that, with one single exception, the Emperor William and his family pay for all their railway journeys, just as any private individual in the Empire would do. The exception is the Main-Weser line, which has accorded to old Wilhelm the privilege enjoyed by his predecessor in the Electorate of Hesse, of travelling between Cassel and Frankfort on the Main gratis. Even then the Princes and Princesses of his house do not share in this right, which is only accorded to the head of the family. On every other line the Imperial "specials" are paid for by the number of wheels on each carriage, and as the Kaiser indulges in long trains, this mounts up to rather a heavy figure for each journey, of which he makes a great many during the year.

THE following telegram from Srinugger, Cashmere, is published by the Allahabad *Morning Post*:—"Reports have reached the State authorities of a serious raid by some trans-frontier tribe. Two forts on the Gilgit frontier have been surprised and captured. The garrisons are supposed to have been either killed or taken prisoners. Intelligence has come by telegraph direct from Gilgit to accelerate the safe despatch of the through post. Sepoys have already been detailed to occupy the various dak stages along the line. After communicating with Government at Jummoo, the Governor here received instructions that it was unnecessary that secrecy should be maintained. Two regiments of sepoys have been under orders for the last two days to proceed to Gilgit, but heavy snow has fallen generally, so the start of the relief force has been delayed, and the march will be difficult. The enthusiasm among the troops is not great, in spite of back pay having been doled out; and the adoption of strong measures has been necessary to induce all the sepoys to obey the summons to attend at headquarters."

AN attempt is about to be made to establish tea-growing in Russia. Six employés of a St. Petersburg tea-firm have been sent to China to study the cultivation of the plant, and on their return gardens are to be established in the neighbourhood of Soukhoum, in the Trans-Caucasian district.

MR. PARNELL's motion regarding the Crimes Act has been adjourned. In his speech, he maintained that Lord Carnarvon had declared to him in 1885, that the establishment of an Irish Parliament would be the only way of solving the difficulty regarding Ireland.

THE statement that Italy is recalling her troops from Massowah is not in accordance with facts.

THE *Englishman* says:—"The Howrah Bridge Committee was appointed by Government as representing the Port Commissioners, the East Indian Railway, the Chamber of Commerce, the Trades' Association, the Department of Account, the Bengal Government, and the Municipalities of Calcutta and Howrah. Such a Committee, it must be admitted, is representative in the widest possible sense. As already stated, the Committee has decided to recommend the entire abolition of the local bridge tolls, and a large modification of the terminal charges. Regarding this latter recommendation, we may say that the Railway terminal charges are to be abolished on all kinds of grain and seeds, and on pulses and salt. The railway charge on passengers and parcels is also to be abolished. The Committee intends, as we said, to recommend that the surplus balance of about two lacs, which will be in hand on the 31st of March next, should be made over to the Calcutta Municipality to assist them in the construction of the proposed new road from the Bridge to Sealdah. The Committee's proposals will leave a sufficient annual balance to provide for the maintenance and repair of the bridge. On the whole, the arrange-

ment seems to be a very fair and satisfactory one; it is almost more than we expected that the road scheme would receive even this amount of assistance."

THURSDAY, 16TH FEBRUARY.

LORD Stanley of Preston, the brother of the Earl of Derby, who succeeds the Marquis of Lansdowne as Governor-General of Canada, will be better remembered as Colonel Sir Frederick Stanley. He was Secretary of State for War from 1878 to 1880, and Secretary of State for the Colonies in Lord Salisbury's first administration. On the formation of the present Ministry Sir Frederick accepted the lower office of President of the Board of Trade, but with a seat in the Cabinet and a peerage. His departure for Canada will enable the Premier to confer Cabinet rank on another supporter, and Sir Michael Hicks Beach, whose claims cannot well be overlooked, seems therefore to be not unlikely to rejoin the Ministry.

IT is curious, remarks a contemporary, to hear Mr Joseph Chamberlain named as a probable successor of Lord Lansdowne in Canada. Yet this, we are told on the authority of the Time's New York correspondent, was currently reported a few weeks ago.

SOME of the Colombian gold mines are now giving promise of astonishing richness. It is reported that from a mine at Rio Sucio, in Cauca, 75 lb of gold were recently extracted as the result of only a few days mining. A nugget weighing upwards of a pound was washed out at another mine.

WHAT is described as a literary event of national importance to China has taken place in Japan. A Chinese official discovered in the latter country a copy of Hwang Kan's Confucian Analects, over 1,200 years old, with all the ancient commentator's notes. This work had disappeared in China for 700 or 800 years, and as the whole history of the present copy is known, the Chinese Government has directed its Minister in Japan to borrow it, in order that a carefully corrected copy may be taken.

ALTHOUGH cotton mills in Bombay are not as much troubled by the dryness of the atmosphere as the up-country mills, the new American invention for counteracting an influence so unfavourable for spinning is interesting, especially as the number of mills in the mofussil is increasing. 'The ærophore, as the new invention is called, consists of a ring of fine jets from which water is violently forced. These jets impinge on buttons placed above them, and these buttons break the water into the finest spray, which fills the air with a wide radius. These machines are placed at intervals in some of the American cotton mills, and the result is that not only is the air kept moist and the fine particles of cotton prevented from flying about, but the electrical disturbance, which is often so troublesome, is kept in check. The ærophore is also made useful in hospitals by mixing some dis-infectant with the water, and dispersing it in spray through the atmosphere of the sick wards. This alone is sufficient to make the design worthy of attention even apart from its utility in cotton mills. Some of our Bombay experts have dealt with the problem of atmospheric dryness in cotton mills, and it may be that we have not much to learn from America in that respect.'

AT the last meeting of the Calcutta Microscopical Society, Mr. Simmons read a paper on the mango weevil, a pest which is spreading rapidly in India and to which attention is aptly directed at the moment when the mango is in blossom. 'Mr. Simmons, we are told, has given much attention to the habits of the weevil since July last, and in his lecture he has gathered much useful information as to the geographical distribution of the creature, the extent of the damage done by it, and the observations of European and American entomologists on the ravages of the pest among plums, apples, quinces, &c.'

THE Sultan's Jubilee gift to the Pope was an *anneau* of gold profusely studded with precious stones, which is valued at £10,000. It was presented by the Armenian Patriarch. Times have changed since Sultan Bajazet swore he would feed his horse with oats on the High Altar of St. Peter's! The President of the French Republic sent two magnificent vases of Sevres, along with a cordial letter of congratulation; and his Holiness has received £20,000 from the monks of the Chartreuse; a diamond rose, valued at £25,000, from Ecuador; and a huge golden staff, filled with gold dollars, from San Francisco. Altogether something between three and four millions sterling has been received by the Papal Treasury on account of Jubilee offerings.

AN instrument has been invented which combines both a telephone and a sounder, and is said to be so simple in construction and so sensitive to the electric current that it will work in all weather through common bare wire lying on the ground By this means, it is claimed, a field telegraph could be erected as fast as an army moved, thus rendering outpost and reconnaissance duty much easier. It is hoped also that the instrument would be of considerable use on the field of battle.

FRIDAY, 17TH FEBRUARY.

THE Government of Hyderabad is contemplating the issue of a new coinage, and some samples of copper and silver coins are in circulation among the high officials of the province for their opinion.

THE Bi-metallic League has decided on holding a conference in Manchester on an early date. The League has supporters in all parts of the kingdom, and has received promises of attendance from the leading members of Parliament, politicians, economists, representatives of numerous chambers of commerce, and agriculture, and delegates from many of the principal labour organisations.

THE ladies' "Leap Year privilege" took its origin in the following manner:—By an ancient Act of the Scottish Parliament, passed about the year 1228, it was ordained that "during the reign of her blessed Majesty—Margaret—every maiden lady of both high and low degree shall have liberty to speak to the man she likes. If he refuses to take her to be his wife, he shall be mulcted in the sum of one hundred pounds or less, as his estate may be, except and always if he can make it appear that he is betrothed to another woman, then he shall be free." It was a hard time for bachelors.

THE Bombay Municipal Corporation disposed on the 13th instant of the proposed imposition of a dog tax in Bombay. The report of the committee appointed by the Corporation to consider the proposal was submitted, and the Corporation resolved in the terms of the report, to inform the Government that it was not desirable to legislate, with a view to the introduction of such a tax in Bombay, the existing means of getting rid of rabid dogs being considered sufficient.

THE Agricultural Conference, to assemble at Delhi between the 29th March and 4th April, will be mainly occupied with the consideration and elaboration of a scheme for establishing civil veterinary departments.

A BRANCH of the Central National Mahomedan Association has been opened at Belgram, in the district of Unao, in the Oudh Province.

ALL the Provincial Governments have now sent in their budgets to the Finance Department. They have not yet been finally dealt with, the custom being to settle them provisionally at the end of January, and take them up a-second time at the end of February. The Governments, without exception, are in comfortable circumstances. Bombay and Madras, says the *Pioneer*, are even flourishing.

A DISCOVERY of much interest has been made in Canterbury Cathedral. A stone coffin has been found about five inches from the surface of the ground in the chapel of Thomas A' Becket, which, it has been discovered, contains a human skull and bones, supposed to be the remains of the martyred Archbishop. The greatest secrecy is maintained by the cathedral authorities, but it is stated that the bones are being examined by an anatomist, to see if they can be put together. The remains are said to be those of a man of large stature, and the theory is put forward that at the time of the burning of the bones of Thomas A'Becket in the reign of Henry VII., three centuries after the murder of the Archbishop, a portion of them may have been secured and reburied.

AN Army Circular just issued notifies that the Governor-General in Council has much gratification in announcing to the Native Armies in India that the sanction of her Majesty's Government has been accorded to the grant of good-conduct medals with annuities and gratuities on the following scale:—To each regiment of cavalry and infantry a silver medal inscribed "for meritorious conduct" with an annuity of Rs. 25 for duffadars and havildars only. Two silver medals will be given annually in each regiment for long service and good conduct with a gratuity of Rs. 25 open to the rank and file. Duffadars or havildars must have 18 years' service and privates 20 years. The men will be chosen by selection. The order takes effect from April 1st. It it is sure to be highly appreciated by the native army.

GREAT preparations are being made in Bombay to give H. H. the Maharaja of Travancore a befitting reception on his visit to that presidency. It is said that the main object of the present tour of the Maharaja is to make himself personally acquainted with the benefits of British rule in India, especially in its western emporium, which was only a fishing village once, and to see how far his Highness's experience can be utilized for the good of his own State and people.

SATURDAY 18TH FEBRUARY

THE SIZE OF OUR GLOBE.—Amongst recent letters to a leading London journal is one signed "R. B. C.," which states that earth contains approximately four thousand millions of cubic feet and founds an argu on these figures. "F. G. S." writes correcting this, saying: "But the earth is nearly 8000 miles in diameter, and a sphere of that size contains in round numbers two hundred and fifty thousand million—cubic million—cubic miles, while each cubic mile contains about a hundred and thirty thousand million cubic feet.

AN OLD NEWSPAPER.—On the 1st of January the *Pressburger Zeitung* celebrated the commencement of the 125th year of its existence, It is the oldest paper in Hungary, and, next to the *Wiener Zeitung*, which is the oldest in the whole Austrain Empire. Attempts had been previously made to establish Latin, German and Magyar newspapers at Pressburg, then the capital of Hungary, but they had all failed. A century ago the *Pressburger Zeitung* acquired a high reputation during the war which Joseph II. waged against the Turks, by keeping a correspondent at Semlin, close to the theatre of hostilities, from whose reports most of the European journals of the time borrowed their accounts of passing events.

THE Sultan, it appears, wishes to introduce changes into the Suez Canal convention, the most important modification being in reference to Article 11 which stipulates that, in the case of disturbances in Egypt, the Turkish and Egyptian Governments have the right to send men of war through the Canal and the Red Sea. The Sultan proposes that the privilege should equally apply to disturbances in Arabia.

LORD RANDOLPH CHURCHILL is said to have stated at Berlin, on his return from Russia, that he could find in St. Petersburg no warlike or aggressive feeling or opinion corresponding in any degree to the feeling prevailing on the western side of the frontier. He thought all respectable Russians were eminently pacifically inclined.

RUSSIA has commenced fresh negotiations regarding Bulgaria.

REPLYING to a question in the House of Commons regarding the accuracy of the statement in *Neue Freie Presse*, Mr. Fergusson said that England had not entered into any engagement pledging herself to any action on the part of her Navy except such as was already known to the public. A further question being put as to whether it was contemplated making any arrangement of that nature with Italy, Mr. Fergusson professed his inability to give a reply.

THE latest report, regarding the health of the Crown Prince, is not quite so satisfactory as could be desired. His Royal Highness suffers a good deal from head-ache and sleeps badly.

THE total number of deaths registered during the week ending 11th February was 235, against 262 and 227 in the two preceding weeks, and higher than the corresponding week of last year by 10. There were 31 deaths from cholera, against 29 and 16 in the two preceding weeks; the number is higher than the the average of the past quinquennium by 4. There were no deaths from small-pox during the week. The mortality from fevers and bowel-complaints amount to 57 and 30 respectively, against 86 and 29 in the preceding week. The general death-rate of the week was 28·3 per mille per annum, against 27·9, the mean of the last five years.

A TENANCY Act is prosposed for Madras. A Tenancy Bill is already in circulation among the high officials and large landlords in the Southern Presidency. It will soon come before the Public.

THE INDIAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE CULTIVATION OF SCIENCE.

(210, BOW-BAZAR STREET.)

(SESSION 1887-8.)

LECTURE by Dr. Mahendra Lal Sircar, on *Tuesday*, the 21*st February*, at 7 P. M.

Subject: Ohm's Law. Thermo-electricity (Continued.

LECTURE by the Rev. Father Lafont, S. J., C. I. E.) on *Thursday*, the 23*rd Inst.*, at 7 P. M.

Subject: Refraction of Light (Continued.)

MAHENDRA LAL SIRCAR, M. D.

February 18*th*, 1888. *Honorary Secretary.*

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The Hindoo Patriot.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 1888.

THE NEW MUNICIPAL BILL.

AN influential meeting of the rate-payers of Calcutta and the Suburbs was held at the Hall of the British Indian Association, last Wednesday afternoon, for the purpose of considering what steps should be taken regarding the revised Municipal Bill now before the Bengal Legislative Council. It included representatives of the various sections of the community in the Town and Suburbs of Calcutta, and the proceedings were conducted with great enthusiasm. Notwithstanding the smallness of the attendance, the meeting was a great success, and it conclusively showed how deeply the rate-payers of the Town and the Suburbs feel the manner in which the new Municipal Bill is being hurried through the Bengal Council.

Maharaja Norendra Krishna, who was voted to the chair, opened the proceedings with a few well-chosen words. Babu Judulal Mullick, one of the largest land-and house-owners in Calcutta and the Suburbs moved the first resolution, which ran as follows:—"That the further report of the Select Committee on the remaining portion of the Calcutta and Suburban Municipalities Amalgamation Bill on being submitted to the Council should be published for general information to afford ample opportunity to the public to examine and criticise the same." The necessity of adopting the course suggested in the resolution is obvious. It is perfectly true that the Bill has been before the public for nearly two years, having been introduced into the Council in the spring of 1886. But it must not be forgotten that so many material alterations have been made in the Bill, as originally drafted, that it is now practically a new measure. Babu Judulal Mullick urged with great force that common fairness demands that the rate-payers of the Metropolis who would be so much affected by the new law should have an opportunity of expressing their opinion on the subject. The request that the Bill, or, at any rate, the new sections that have been introduced into it, should be published for general information, is perfectly reasonable; and there is no reason why it should not be complied with unless, indeed, it be that our legislators wish to pass the Bill without ascertaining the thoughts, feelings and wishes of those who would be most deeply affected by it. It will be remembered that the Government of Lord Ripon, in determining what steps should be taken to give greater publicity to the measures of Government, laid down that whenever material alterations were made in a Bill after its introduction into Council, the revised Bill should be published for general information. So many important changes have been effected in the Calcutta and Suburban Municipalities Bill since it was brought forward about two years ago that the measure has lost its original character. Mr. Braunfeld, in seconding the resolution, laid special stress on the fact that the Bill affected the poorer classes more than the rich, and that for this reason, if not for any thing else, the Government should have submitted the revised Bill for the opinion of the public. Although the measure has assumed a new aspect altogether, the Government is hurrying it through the Legislative Council as if it was something cut and dry and acceptable to every body. Our legislators think so very highly of their own wisdom that they look upon every measure emanating from them as the best that could be devised by the genius of men. The public, however, may be excused if it does not accept their work at their own valuation.

The second resolution was moved by Babu Asutosh Biswas in a vigorous speech. It ran as follows:—"That this meeting desires to place on record its deep sense of regret that the Council of His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal did not see their way to give effect to the recommendations made by the British Indian Association in regard to the sections already discussed and passed by them." Babu Charu Chundor Mullick seconded the resolution, and Babu Surendra Nath Banerjee supported it with his usual eloquence. The latter gentleman emphatically protested against the reckless precipitancy with which the Bill was being hurried through the Council, and he deeply regretted the total disregard which was being paid to Native public opinion. Babu Surendra Nath remarked with perfect justice that while the Council was showing every possible deference to the opinions expressed by the Chamber of Commerce and the Trades Association, it gave no consideration whatever to the representations made by Native public bodies like the British Indian Association and the Indian Association. Amendments brought forward by the representatives of the European mercantile community in the Council are being accepted by the Member in charge of the Bill, or if their acceptance be impossible he is seen to assume an apologetic tone. But he is dealing with the representations of the Native public bodies in a quite different spirit. Although the Bill is now in its final stage, it is a wonder that the public have not yet had placed before them any statement from Government showing the grounds on which the amalgamation proposed is held necessary. The Bengal Government appointed a Committee to consider and report on the question of the introduction of *octroi* duties into the town of Calcutta. That Committee went out of its way and suggested that the Town and the Suburbs should be united under one system of Municipal administration. No regular enquiry was officially held into the matter, and the *pros* and *cons* of the case were not carefully weighed. In constituting a Committee under the presidency of Mr. Reynolds for the purpose of framing a scheme for uniting the Town and the Suburbs under one system of Municipal administration, Sir Rivers Thompson told the public that the Government had definitely accepted the principle of amalgamation. This being the case, the necessity of the amalgamation proposed has yet to be made out. Alike in the interests of the residents of the Town and the Suburbs the measure is extremely undesirable. The town will be saddled with a heavy responsibility which it will not be able to discharge properly. Its resources which are now devoted to its area of six square miles will be spread over an area of eighteen square miles, and the inevitable consequence will be that the benefits now enjoyed by the residents of the Town must be reduced. The portion of the Suburbs proposed to be united with the Town is noted for its grossly defective sanitary condition, and is too sparsely populated to be able to yield by way of taxes anything like the sum required for its reform and organisation. At the same time, to the bulk of the suburban people who will be brought within the jurisdiction of the new Corporation, the numerous and the higher rates of taxes levied in the Town will be extremely oppressive. In these circumstances, before the Bill now before the Bengal Council is passed into law, a thorough enquiry ought to be made into the necessity for the proposed amalgamation.

By the third resolution which was proposed by Mr. R. D. Mehta an influential Committee was appointed to watch the progress of the Bill and take such further action as might be deemed necessary. We hope against hope that the labours of this Vigilance Committee will be attended with the success which the great importance of the subject demands. We feel that it is almost impossible to dissuade the Government of Bengal from carrying through its Council the measure upon which it has set its heart. It is, however, our duty to do what is possible, and even though protest might come too late to affect decisions already arrived at, yet we must not forget that there is a higher tribunal to which we can appeal with every hope of obtaining justice.

JUDICIAL TOURS OF INSPECTION.

IT will be in the remembrance of our readers that shortly before the last Christmas holidays Sir William Comer Petheram in company with Mr. Justice Prinsep went on a tour of inspection to the Mufassil. Gya and some of the neighbouring Behar Districts were visited. The report of this tour of inspection has not yet been made public. But judging from the report of the first inspection by Mr. Prinsep, we may well count upon the second report also being equally interesting, particularly as the Chief Justice was associated in his work with so able and experienced an officer as Mr. Prinsep. Most of Mr. Prinsep's recommendations as embodied in his first report yet remain to be given effect to. But the High Court is not answerable for the delay of the Government; and the tardiness in making use of experience gathered in the tour does not take away from its value in the least. There is little room for doubt that these periodical inspections of our District and Subordinate Courts by high judicial officers like Her Majesty's Judges are always fraught with great advantages, and the only regret is that they cannot be undertaken oftner. One of the great advantages derivable from them is that they enable the High Court to acquire an intimate knowledge of the merits of the judicial officers under their control and thus to determine which of these officers should be promoted to more responsible judicial positions. They not only tend to add to the efficiency of our courts by making the judicial officers more vigilant and mindful of their duties, but by keeping direct touch with the highest judicial authorities of the land they enable our District and Subordinate Judges to get over many of those legal and administrative difficulties which no amount of voluminous correspondence and complicated reviews could ever possibly hope to achieve.

We are glad to note that following on the wake of the Judges of the Calcutta High Court, the Allahabad High Court has also initiated a system of these periodical inspection tours. Sir William Comer Petheram, after his inspection of some of the Courts in Behar, spent a portion of the Christmas holidays with Sir John Edge, Chief Justice of the North-Western Provinces, and Sir John had doubtless the advantage of a personal conference with Sir Comer on this important question. Soon after the holidays, Sir John went on a tour of inspection, and it is to be hoped that his Lordship derived considerable experience of the working of the Muffasil Courts under his jurisdiction, and what is of far greater importance of the men and manners with which these courts have daily to deal. In a country where local customs form an integral and essential part of the personal law of the people, such experience cannot but be of the greatest value to the officer who has the control of the entire judicial machinery of the Province.

It is on this score that we very specially welcome the rising system of periodical inspection of our Muffasil Courts by one or other of the judges of the Provincial High Courts. We hope that the reform—for a very valuable and important reform it is beyond question—will not be allowed to be ephemeral in its character, but that it will be carefully developed and maintained. And we further hope that the Government of India will impress upon the other Provincial High Courts, the Chief Court of the Punjab and the Judicial Commissioners' Courts in the non-regulation Provinces, the supreme necessity of adopting this reform. It is not likely to cost the Government much, for one or other of the judges of our High Courts may for a certain portion of the year, when the file is not intolerably heavy, make time to undertake a work which is so much calculated to improve the judicial efficiency of the Province. And the scale of travelling allowance may be managed to be kept down at a figure not likely to alarm the Comptroller General, or the Finance Minister, who is ever complaining of a chronic deficit in Indian finances.

But it strikes us that the Chief Justice is not the right officer to undertake these duties. His place is at the head of the Court over which he presides, where, apart from the discharge of his routine duties, he has constantly to be referred to by his colleagues, the litigants and the profession on a variety of matters, which cannot always with advantage be delegated to Puisne Judges. A Chief Justice, moreover, must always be a barrister, generally fresh from England, and he cannot, therefore, be reasonably expected to possess any very considerable experience of the inner working of the Muffassil Courts,

and is not properly qualified to thoroughly examine the records of these Courts which are in vernacular. He would, as a matter of course, be less fitted to detect irregularities and suggest remedies readily than the Civilian, or Vakil Judges, whose life's work almost has been either to preside over and control the working of one or other of the very courts he is now called upon to inspect, or to deal with the variety of cases which come up in appeal to the High Court from these subordinate Courts. For these reasons it would be a distinct advantage if the Chief Justice were to delegate the duty of these periodical inspections to some of his colleagues who may have an initmate knowledge of the Vernacular languages and time enough to undertake it without deteriorating the efficiency of the Court in any way.

JUDICIAL CONFERENCE.

OUR High Courts, Chief Courts and Judicial Commissioners' Courts are separate integers wholly independent of each other, generally under different local Governments and administrations, and controlled by no central authority in India. Her Majesty's Privy Council in England, indeed, nominally controls them, but in so far only as their decisions may be subject to appeal to the Council. The costly nature of these appeals and the prohibition of any appeal lying to the Council in cases valued at less than ten thousand rupees, unless some very substantial question of law should be involved, practically places the bulk of the High Court decisions beyond the jurisdiction of the Council. There can, however, be no doubt that great advantage would result if these separate and independent integers were regulated and controlled by some central authority, instead of each being allowed to follow divergent courses. The first thing that strikes a careful reader of the law reports is the diversity of opinion existing between the different High Courts on some of the most material points of law and procedure. To melt the diverging elements into one homogeneous whole and to evolve therefrom one universal Code for all British India, would, indeed, be a task well worth the ambition of the most sanguine and capable of Jurists. It is not possible to establish a Supreme Court, like that in the United States, to harmonise the conflicting decisions of the different High Courts. There are, however, points the differences of which could be satisfactorily settled, if there was a central authority and it is to such that we for the present would direct our attention.

Although the law has been codified to an extent and within a space of time that would amaze the olden Jurists of the West, the essential ingredient of customs and manners makes absolute and complete codification of personal law in India an impossibility. Decisions of our law courts must, therefore, in many cases, be shaped by the individual idiosyncracies of our Judges and the special view of the law they may choose to take upon any particular matter. Nothing is so frequent as for the Judge of one High Court to refer to a prior decision of some other High Court approvingly or disapprovingly as he may think fit, and all work of assimilation becomes impossible when, the shadowy control of the Privy Council excepted, there is nothing to tone down and regulate the conflicting decisions. One of the most important duties, which has, of late years, fallen upon the High Courts, is to advise the Government of India upon the various Bills introduced into the Supreme Council. Different views are expressed by the different High Courts upon the various important questions of law and procedure upon which they are asked to advise; and no material assistance can be derived from these divergent expressions of opinion, unless there be a machinery to give harmony and consistency to these conflicting views of the different High Courts.

A possible remedy would be furnished if the representatives of these varying judicial views were to meet from time to time, discuss disputed points of law and procedure, and settle what should be the guiding principle in the future. In the course of the judicial administration of the year the points of difference might be noted down and settled at such a meeting. A Judicial conference of this nature cannot but be fraught with incalculable advantages, and great benefit would accrue if the idea was properly worked up and given effect to. A uniform standard of interpretation may be fixed upon at these conferences, divergences removed, inequalities and irregularities smoothed down, and reforms in the law and procedure suggested to the Legislature.

We would suggest that the Chief Justices of Calcutta, Bombay and Madras, the Chief Judge of the Chief Court of the Punjab, and the Judicial Commissioners of Oudh (if his Court be not finally amalgamated with the Allahabad High Court) and Nagpore, associated with the senior Puisne Judges of each Court, should annually meet for the purpose at some convenient time and at some central place. If these officers be unwilling to sacrifice their well-earned holidays there could be little objection to setting apart a portion of the working period of the year for so useful and important purpose, and it is not at all likely that the regular work of their respective Courts will suffer, to any appreciable extent, by the arrangement. The travelling bill will not at all be disproportionate to the advantages likely to be derived and we are sure the Government will not grudge this extra little expenditure on the administration of justice, from which source of revenue it admittedly derives so large a profit. The decisions of a "Full Bench" of Chief Justices will be practically binding on the respective Courts over which they preside, and there will be less of those discrepancies and inconsistencies which are the natural outcome of the present divergent systems of judicial administration. The time has come when some such central authority should have the power of controlling the system. Such a conference, moreover, would not be without precedent. Not long ago, to compare small things with great, the Divisional Commissioners under the Government of Bengal met in a somewhat similar conference, in which important questions of administrative detail were settled. School Inspectors and other educational luminaries have similar institutions and there seems to be no reason why there should not be a judicial conference on the lines we have suggested. Such an institution would not only be useful in the way we have indicated, but would be instrumental in bringing about administrative reforms as regards the inner working of the Courts subsidiary to the High Courts, which would otherwise be impossible. Legal difficulties of all description being moreover brought to a definitive head, the lines of necessary legislative changes would also be definitively suggested. Regarding, for example, an all-important question like that of Fishery rights, which we dealt with at length in a recent issue, such a conference would be able to give to the Law Member of the Viceroy's Council extremely valuable aid, and would convince the Government, beyond a doubt, how absolutely necessary special legislation in this direction has become. In complicated cases of legal difficulties, the Law Member of the Viceroy's Council is sometimes the common referee. But the onerous nature of his general duties forbids his paying that amount of attention to the work of reference which is likely to meet with the requirements of the case referred to. A conference like the one we have suggested would be an invaluable auxiliary in works of this description, and its efficacy otherwise, would, as we have attempted to show, be undoubted.

THE NATIONAL INDIAN ASSOCIATION.

THE annual meeting of the National Indian Association was held at Belvedere last Tuesday evening under the presidency of His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor. Her Excellency the Countess of Dufferin graced the occasion with her presence. The annual report was read by Mr. Mon Mohun Ghose, Honorary Joint Secretary. The National Indian Association, it may be remembered, was founded by the late Miss Mary Carpenter with the object of promoting kindly relations between the people of England and India and of furthering the cause of social progress. The Bengal Branch of the Association was established in 1876, and its funds are now almost entirely devoted to the encouragement of female education. Owing to the limited means at the disposal of the Branch it has not been able to do much useful work. The sum of Rs. 571 was spent last year by the Committee on sholarships; but some of the scholarships awarded to the girls in village schools have been withdrawn ast the Committee passed a rule to the effect ,tha scholarships should not be given to schools where a female teacher was not entertained. The Committee rightly held that it is unadvisable to encourage older and married girls to continue their attendance at schools under the charge of male teachers. It is a matter for regret that owing to the want of money, the Committee have not been able to grant applications made by numerous girls' schools for scholarships, furniture &c. The report pertinently points out that there are many directions in which the Committee might advance the objects of the National Indian Association were the funds larger. The small sum collected annually necessarily confines the work within very narrow limits.

Mr. Amir Ali moved the adoption of the report, and the motion was duly seconded. The Rev. Father Lafont, in supporting the resolution, made some very sensible remarks. He said that though the encouragement of female education was an excellent object, Miss Mary Carpenter's primary aim in establishing the Association was to bring about friendly intercourse between the different races. We join with Father Lafont in regretting that this important object is being lost sight of, and in hoping that some thing would be done towards this end. If the Association does nothing in the direction of promoting friendly relations between the people of England and India its existence cannot be justified. Father Lafont suggested that there should be friendly gatherings under the auspices of the Association, for which very large funds were not required. The importance of giving effect to this suggestion is obvious, and so long as it is not done, the main object which Miss Marry Carpenter had in view in founding the Association will remain unfulfilled. Sir Alfred Croft who spoke next, urged that there were one or two things to be done before what Father Lafont suggested could be accomplished. Sir Alfred thought that the Association should be made more widely known and the number of its members should be increased. He said that the Association had to struggle against two very great difficulties. With regard to female education, he contended that the chief difficulty was the apathy of the Native Community towards it; and that though girls' schools were established in many parts of Bengal, female education was not very popular. The chief cause of the unpopularity of female education, we should tell Sir Alfred Croft, is the want of efficient female teachers. Mr. Charles Tawny makes the following remarks on the subject of teachers in girls' schools in the Bengal Education Report for 1886-87: "As yet the number of female teachers is not large. They are practically confined to the town of Calcutta and the Presidency, Burdwan and Orissa Divisions, where Christian Missionaries have worked for a large number of years. Calcutta has about 150, the Presidency and Burdwan Divisions about 120, and the Orissa Division about 50. For other parts of the country their number is small. A few of the female teachers are Hindus or Mahomedans brought up in the village schools, but the great majority of them received their instruction in Missionary Schools. The general belief is that they are not so efficient as male teachers, and are at least twice as costly." Female education will never become popular in this country until we have a large supply of efficient female teachers for girls' schools. We thoroughly agree with Sir Alfred Croft that if the funds of the National Indian Association permitted, some of the money might be spent in training female teachers, which was a much-felt want. The Rev. K. S. Macdonald and Mr. H. Beveridge also addressed the meeting. The former gentleman referred to the proceedings of the Education Conference which sat last year in Calcutta and recommended the creation of scholarships forwarded after examination to all girls wherever educated at an annual outlay of Rs. 780. The Government of Bengal, however, was unable to sanction the proposed expenditure. Mr. Beveridge suggested that in order to

increase the number of members of the Association the rates of subscription should be reduced. His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor brought the proceedings to a close with a few practical remarks. He supported the suggestions that the rates of subcription should be reduced, and that the Association should be made more widely known. We join with Sir Steuart Bayley in hoping that the adoption of the suggestions offered would have the effect of starting the Association on its next year's work with renewed vigour and strength.

THE FINANCIAL DEBATE IN THE SUPREME COUNCIL.—II.

We have in our previous article on this subject discussed the important question of direct *versus* indirect taxation with reference to the remarks made by Mr. Steel and Mr. Evans. The latter gentleman, we are glad to see, pointedly drew the attention of the Council to the gloomy prospects of Indian finance. He said :—"The statement which was made by the Hon'ble the Financial Member on the last occasion is a very able statement. It shows very clearly the strain which has been imposed upon the resources of India by the continued fall in exchange, the diminished revenue from opium, combined with the necessity for expenditure on our North-Western frontier defences and the expenditure in Upper Burma. * * * The outlook, with the possibility of a further fall in exchange and a great probability of a further diminution of the opium revenue from the increasing growth of the poppy in China and other causes, together with the necessity of continuing our increased expenditure in Burma for some time to come is not a cheerful one." His Excellency the Viceroy seems inclined to make light of the strain imposed upon the resources of the Empire by the diminished revenue from opium and by the expenditure in Upper Burma and on the North-Western Frontier defences. But these causes of our financial embarrassment should not be overlooked. The continued extension of the poppy cultivation in China is a serious matter for the Indian tax-payer. The net receipts from opium have this year fallen short of the Budget Estimates by 30 lakhs of rupees, and it is highly probable that the opium revenue will continue to diminish. The well-to-do classes, no doubt, buy the superior Indian drug in preference to the home grown article ; but the Financial Member is constrained to admit that the diminution of the opium revenue must be regarded as a permanent deterioration in the financial position. And there is every reason to fear that the diminution of the Indian opium revenue will not be arrested at the point it has already reached. Lord Dufferin tells us that from what he has recently heard from the British Minister at Pekin it does not seem likely that any very considerable change in the mercantile relations between China and India as regards opium is likely to ensue. It would not, however, be wise to place too much reliance on such reports. Then, the expenditure on the North-West Frontier defences and in Upper Burma will continue for some years to come. The time is still distant when Upper Burma will pay its way and cease to be a burden upon the Indian exchequer. Lord Dufferin also hopes that our railway receipts will recover. Here, again, his Lordship seems to us to be too sanguine, and he himself admits that we have no right to allow such an anticipation to influence our practical policy.

Lord Dufferin thinks that the real difficulty attending our financial policy is the instability of silver. His Lordship remarked :—"With an uncertainty of that kind introduced into all his calculations, no Finance Minister can ever enjoy any real repose. He must be always conscious that in the unknown future there may exist contingencies which will upset all his calculations and destroy the anticipated equilibrium in his budget ; but from the very nature of the case all that the Government can do is to exercise its best intelligence in calculating the probabilities of the actual situation and leave the ultimate issue in the hands of Providence. As I have already had occasion to say, had it not been for the fall in silver which has made me three millions a year a poorer Viceroy than I was when I first came to the country, notwithstanding even the fall in opium and the expenditure in Burma, I think we might have tided over our present difficulties without any resort to increased taxation." There can be no doubt that the depreciation of the white metal has seriously embarrassed our finances. To quote the words of M. Cernuschi, the eminent French Economist :—"The Indian Budget is disarranged, public works are countermanded, and all administrative and financial policy has but one aim, to recover by means of reduction of expenditure what is lost by exchange. Never was so paltry a programme imposed on a great Government." There is little hope that the labours of the Currency Commission sitting in England, will result in the rehabilitation of silver. It is well known that the American delegates came to the last Monetary Conference in Paris charged with a scheme of international bimetallism. France and Germany were ready to accept it ; but the refusal of England caused the abandonment of a scheme fraught with advantage to the whole human race. As Mr. Samuel Smith has pertinently observed, 'the English who of all nations suffer most from this monetary dislocation, are the people who stupidly oppose an arrangement that would render such a dislocation impossible.'

As, however, there is little prospect of a rise in the value of silver, the urgent need there is for a revision of the Home charges that fall with such severity upon the country, becomes manifest. Mr. Evans made some very sensible and pertinent observations upon this question in the course of his speech. He said :—"I am, I believe, expressing the views of many when I say that the time has arrived for the Home authorities seriously to take in hand reforms which the Governor-General in Council is powerless to effect or to deal with. The Home charges are what cause India to feel the exchange, and the Home charges are what India cannot deal with. They are very heavy and are capable of great reduction The enormous expenses thrown upon India by the short-service system, and the constant movement of troops between England and India, involves enormous increased expenditure ; and many competent authorities are of opinion that the increased expenditure brings no increase of efficiency, but rather the reverse. The expensive transport system and many points raised by the late Army Commission are matters which the Home Government is bound to grapple with. The India Office itself needs a thorough overhauling, and considerable reductions might be made ; for the times have changed, and it will almost certainly appear that the system is more cumbrous and expensive than is needed. The purchasing and spending departments at Home should be narrowly looked into. * * * There is also the further important question as to whether the old system of presidencies with separate Governors and Commanders-in-Chief, and separate armies should be maintained ; and this too presses for solution. I think, when all has been done that can be done on this side, we are entitled to look for some relief from the other side of the water. Having helped ourselves all we can, we are entitled to call on the higher powers for aid. Meanwhile, the Government of this country must be carried on, but unless the Home authorities bestir themselves shortly they must expect to encounter grave dissatisfaction." The question of the revision of the Home Charges raised by Mr. Evans is of vital importance to the Indian tax-payer. The introduction of the short-service system, as we have over and over again pointed out in these columns, has imposed a very heavy burden upon our Revenues. India, to use the language of Sir Charles' Dilke, is being ruined by the monitary calls made upon her by a system which is quite unsuited to her requirements. This expression of opinion by a statesman who recently held the position of a Cabinet Minister in England, should induce the Home Government to dissolve the partnership with regard to the army which has been established between England and India. Under this partnership, which was forced upon India in the teeth of Lord Canning's protest, she is obliged to contribute her share towards many costly arrangements as to the adoption of which she is not even consulted. Whatever may be urged in favour of the short-service system as applied to England, there can be no question that it has imposed a very heavy burden upon the Indian tax-payer. A recruit now costs India at least twice as much as on the days before the amalgamation of the two armies. Then, the transport service of the East India Company used to be about 5 lakhs a year, but under the operation of the short-service system it has swollen to six times that amount. If India were governed with sole regard to her own interests, she would be allowed to maintain a local European army as in the days of the Company. The Army Commission recommended changes which, if they had been carried out, would have caused reduction in our Military expenditure to the extent of a crore and-a-half. But the English war Office would not listen to proposals which had for their object the abolition of many fat posts to which the army looks up as prizes. Again, we have to bear the whole burden of the India office where everything is managed on an extravagant scale, whereas the British exchequer pays for the colonial office. If the financial relations between England and India were honestly adjusted and the Home charges carefully revised, all cause for anxiety as to the future of Indian finances would be at once removed.

LATEST NEWS AND NOTES

Reuter telegraphs that Lord Dufferin succeeds Sir John Saville Lumley as Ambassador at Rome, and enters on the duties of his new appointment in August. The announcement is rather a bold one considering that Lord Dufferin does not leave India before November, at least under the existing arrangements.

The Viceroy leaves Calcutta, it is stated, about the 27th of March. It is likely His Excellency will pay a short visit to Lucknow on his way to Simla.

Sir Charles Turner, late Chief Justice of Madras, has been appointed to the seat in the India Council vacant by the death of Sir Henry Maine. The appointment is in every way unexceptionable.

His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor leaves Calcutta on the 2nd of March on a tour in Chota Nagpore.

It is announced that on the 2nd of March His Excellency the Viceroy and the Countess of Dufferin will leave Calcutta for Darjeeling. Their Excellencies' stay at Darjeeling will extend over a week, during which they will reside at the Shrubbery, the delightful residence of His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor.

We are glad to notice that the Sobhabazar Benevolent Society is steadily doing its good work. It has now completed the fourth year of its existence, and its stability is greatly due to the untiring exertions of the brothers Kumars Neelkrishna and Benoy Krishna. The object of the Society is to render, so far as it can, pecuniary and other aid to those who are really in want, and 45 needy people receive monthly support from it. They include students, widows, and invalids. The society has well earned public support.

Under the presidency of the Hon'ble G. C. Paul the friends and admirers of Mr. Robert Turnbull met at the British Indian Association Hall, on Saturday last, for the purpose of considering and determining in what manner they could best show their appreciation of Mr. Turnbull's valuable services as Secretary to the Calcutta Municipal Corporation. There was a very fair attendance, and the chair was occupied by the Hon'ble the Advocate-General. As Babu Jadulal Mullick observed Mr. Turnbull had acted under the old triumvirate, then under the Justices, and after that under the

Corporation, and has earned the good-will of all sections of the community. The first resolution was moved by Maharaja Narendra Krishna Bahadoor, and ran as follows:—"That this meeting desires to place on record its appreciation of the valuable services rendered by Mr. Robert Turnbull as Secretary of the Municipal Corporation for upwards of 30 years, and of those qualities of head and heart which have won him the esteem and regard of the public." It was seconded by Nawab Abdul Latif. The second Resolution was to the effect "that as a mark of the estimation in which Mr. Robert Turnbull is held, a testimonial-portrait, paid for by public subscription, be placed in the Town Hall." This was moved by Babu Judulal Mullick and seconded by Mr. Manickji Herjeebhoy Rustomji. A large and influential Committee has been appointed to give effect to the second Resolution.

THE London correspondent of the *Englishman* states that Lord Dufferin intends to abrogate the rule under which the honour of a salute is reserved for feudatory Chiefs and ruling Princes. Since the deaths of the late Maharajas of Vizinagram and of Burdwan this honour has not been conferred on any of the great nobles of the Empire. The *Englishnan's* correspondent writes:—"It certainly seems absurd that a semi-savage chief of a petty Bhil village may enjoy, at the hands of the Government of India, a dignity that is denied to such men as the Maharaja of Durbhunga." We fully agree with the writer and hope that the absurd rule to which he refers should be abrogated without delay.

Broad Arrow says:—"It is true, as we learn from an official source here, that the Amir has asked for a British officer to drill his army. Abdur Rahman has got the men, and he has got both the arms and the money, but he does not know how to use those possessions with the advantages suggestesd in the case of a Price, who is the sport of Russian diplomacy, and the leading factor in Indian frontier politics. But His Highness has more worldly wisdom than the Shah of Persia, whose fine equipment of breech-loaders is said to be rusting under lock and key, because he will not allow the pretty toys to be in the hands of the common soldier." For our part, we do not place much reliance on the statement we have just quoted. We cannot persuade ourselves to believe that the Amir has asked for a British officer to drill his army. The writer who makes this statement has apparently no idea of the profound feelings of suspicion and mistrust with which the Afghan looks upon the English. He would never allow the latter to obtain a footing in his country for fear lest they should end by conquering and annexing it.

THE *Civil and the Military Gazette* would have us believe that the real reason which prompted Lord Dufferin's resignation is to be found in his strained relations with Viscount Cross, the present Secretary of State for India. It is no secret that Lord Cross was included in the Salisbury Cabinet at the special desire of Her Majesty the Queen, and that he was pitchforked into the India Office because he was not considered fit enough for any of the other principal Secretaryships of State. The writer in the Lahore daily paper attributes the Viceroy's resignation to the frequent passages-at-arms between his Government and the Secretary of State. From all this the Home papers have been predicting for some time the down-fall of Lord Cross. It was even stated that Lord Randolph Churchill would again enter the Ministry and take charge of the India Office. But Her Majesty's sincere friendship for Lord Cross made Lord Dufferin's resignation inevitable. When His Lordship has himself stated that imperative private reasons alone have dictated the step, it is not proper to indulge in any further speculation on the subject.

THE Bill for the Regulation of the Police was passed at the last sitting of the Viceroy's Council. We hope it will bring about the desired results. In these days of Railways and Telegraphic wires the police have to deal with not only localised crimes and criminals but also with offenders who have to be pursued from Province to Province, perhaps through the entire length or breadth of the country. A difficulty arose in such cases by reason of the police of one Province not having the requisite legal authority to prosecute their enquiries in another Province. To provide a remedy for such cases the Bill gives power to the Governor General in Council to form police districts composed of parts of different provinces and to appoint a separate police force for such a district. But we think that the proposed scheme is subject to some objection. This was so clearly pointed out by Raja Peary Mohun Mookerjee that we cannot do better than quote his words: "This is one of those measures in which the Legislature must content itself with investing Your Excellency in Council with proper powers for devising a scheme and making rules for working it. The necessity of having an Imperial police service is evident when by reason of the rapid extension of railways the police of different districts and provinces have to deal not merely with local criminals but also others who come from distant parts of the country. But the inconveniences of having an inter-provincial police service should not be lost sight of. It would be difficult for such a service to utilise the valuable local knowledge possessed by the local police at different districts, and there is also the graver question as how to regulate the subordination of officers when an imperial service overlaps local services and has a distinct jurisdiction of its own. These matters will no doubt be provided for by the rules which will be made under the Act."

A CORRESPONDENT of the *Statesman* has written an interesting letter to our contemporary, the object of which is to show that the increase of crime in the country is due to the increasing poverty of the people. The writer points out that nine-tenths of every community in every civilised country live by buying and selling, and when neither agriculture nor trade shows a profit the labouring classes in their distress turn to crime for their daily bread. Indeed, experience has shown that crime is the sure index of straitened circumstances among the working classes in this country. It has been officially admitted that the weavers of Bengal whose occupation is gone have in their distress turned to theft for their daily bread. This fact was brought to prominent relief in the Police administration reports of this Province when Mr. Munro was Inspector-General. The correspondent of the *Statesman* adduces facts which indicate a growing tendency to give up agriculture which does not pay for pursuits that promise to be more remunerative. Impatient of their poverty, the people are ready to abandon their fields in despair for any pursuit which gives them hopes of a better return for their labour. But alas! their hopes are too often disappointed. The writers of rose-coloured official reports indicate the growth of the export trade of India as proof of the prosperity of the agricultural classes. But these gentlemen conveniently forget that increased exports do not necessarily imply an improvement in the material condition of the cultivators. As the late Mr. J. C. Geddes, in his evidence before the East India Finance Committee, stated, sixteen years ago, the starving cultivator is obliged to live on one meal a day and sell off and export the other meal for paying the rent of the land.

THE third annual meeting of the church of England Society was held last Monday evening at the Town Hall under the presidency of the Lord Bishop. It appears that three branches of the society are working regularly in different parts of Calcutta doing much good work. At the meeting under notice Dr. Birch made some very interesting remarks on the medical aspect of the use of alcohol based on his experiences and professional conclusions. He did not hesitate to say that the greatest blessing which could befall the world would be the abolition of alcohol. He observed that the evils of drink were most forcibly represented, not so much by those who drunk to excess occasionally, but rather by those who, by steady excess carried on from day to day overstepped the mark which their systems could bear. Scientific authorities have held that one ounce of alcohol in twenty-four hours is the extreme which a strong full-grown man can take with impunity; "choronic alcoholism," said Dr. Birch, "deranged the lungs, the liver, the kidneys, the heart and the brains; the most marked symptoms being loss of temper, choronic querulousness, premature age, dyspepsia, and a very peculiar paralysis of the legs; while cunning and lying were vivid characteristics of the confirmed drunkard. It was a very grave error to suppose that the habit of chronic drinking was past and gone with the cessation of the habit, as nothing was more common than for a man to become temperate too late; and although such a man thought he was safe, he generally died in hospital between twelve months and two years of dropsy." The mortality from alcoholism, Dr. Birch stated, is something appalling. Comparing the deaths from alcohol and cholera, he remarked that the mortality from the former cause is immeasurably greater, and yet what a fuss is made on an outbreak of cholera. We commend this sensible and thoughtful remark to the members of the Calcutta Health Society. Mortality from alcohol is beyond question preventible. Why do not the Healthites then turn their attention to this subject for a time and leave the Calcutta Municipality alone?

MORE than five years ago the Government of India issued a circular, suggesting the more general use of maps in administration and other reports to illustrate the questions discussed therein. The Government of Bengal has now determined to give immediate effect to the suggestion above mentioned. The Board of Revenue, we observe, did not look upon the proposal with favour on the ground that it would occasion delay in the submission of reports and entail considerable expense. Sir Steuart Bayley seems to be of opinion that these objections are not insuperable. His Honor thinks that there need be no delay in the submission of reports if the preparation of the maps be taken in hand with fore-thought. But in the matter of expense the Lieutenant-Governor wishes it to be distinctly understood that no addition can be made to existing departmental grants on this account, and that whatever is done must be done within the limits of the budget provision. If this condition be strictly fulfilled, we do not think that the suggestion made by the Government of India can be adopted to a large extent and that matters will practically remain such as they are now.

THE Government of Bengal has appointed a Committee under the presidency of Mr. H. J. Reynolds to consider the question of improving the position of the junior members of the Pilot Service and the question of the compulsory retirement of Pilots, on their attaining the age of 55 years. The increase in the average tonnage of vessels and the decrease in the average number of vessels entering the Port of Calcutta, since the past ten years have given an increasing share of the work to the senior pilots while the position of the junior pilots has grown steadily worse. The junior pilots are often unemployed and by reason of this enforced idleness, they are likely to lose their knowledge of the river, and their confidence in handling a ship. A remedy for this evil has been twice sought in a redistribution of tonnage amongst the different grades of pilots; but the object in view has not been attained by the measures adopted. The Lieutenant-Governor has, therefore, decided to refer the whole question for consideration and report to a representative committee which will also deal with the question of compulsory retirement of pilots.

THE rate-payers of Dacca are afraid that Babu A. C. Roy, the present unpopular Chairman of their Municipality—against whom grave complaints of irregularities, neglect of duty and general inefficiency have been made—will again be thrust upon them as a 'nominated' Commissioner. Their apprehensions appear to us to be entirely groundless. We may assure them that His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor will not sanction any 'nomination,' unless he is satisfied

that the person recommended by the local authorities is a fit and proper person to become a Commissioner.

LAST Saturday's business in the Bengal Council was of a more formal nature than that of the preceding Saturdays. On the motion of the Hon'ble Mr. Irving the penalty for the breach of election rules was raised from fifty to two hundred. Mr. Irving also wanted to institute a system of granting leave to European absentee members who might be away from Calcutta for more than 6 months consecutively. But the Council rejected his amendment, as it would be very wrong in principle. Would that the question of principle had more weight with the Council on some of the more important points! The Hon'ble Babu Kallynath Mittra's motions to the effect that the notoriously slender Municipal funds should not be diverted to the "construction of Hospitals," and that it would be a dangerous precedent to allow the rate-payers' hard-earned money to be wasted on "public entertainments," were lost and those objectionable clauses retained.

THE most important item of the day's business was the consideration of the propriety of Educational grants from out of the Municipal Funds. Dr. Gurudas Banerjee moved that the promotion of primary and technical education should be a part of the duties of the Municipality. Dr. Banerjee observed :—

He knew it would be said that education was more an imperial than a local undertaking, but the scope of his amendment was limited to those elementary branches of education which he thought it was the duty of every Municipality to promote. Poverty and ignorance were the chief causes which contributed to the sanitary defects of a town. They may improve their bustees, open out wide roads, or supply filtered water to the people, but they would fail to make any substantial progress in sanitary matters as long as the people themselves remained ignorant of the first principles of sanitation. But if they gave them an elementary education, so as to fit them to read some of the simple sanitary primers in their own tongue, they would then be able to accomplish many sanitary reforms which they were unable to do at present, owing to the ignorance of the people. He saw no reason why when poorer Municipalities could afford to appropriate funds for educational purposes, the Calcutta Municipality could not do likewise.

Dr. Banerjee's contentions were completely answered by the British Indian Association in their letter on the Bill, which said :—

So much has yet to be done in connection with public health, that all attempts to saddle the Town with expenditure not hitherto usually borne by it ought to be strictly avoided. Mass education has up to this time been very well cared for without the interference of the Municipality. Under certain circumstances keeping up of schools is a means of gain. There are several schools which are kept up expressly for that purpose. There is no reason why provision should be made to supply a want which is not felt, and to transfer the burden from those who bear it now and can well do so, to the Municipality which cannot. The condition of things in the Mofussil is quite different from that in Calcutta.

Sir Alfred Croft, however, in his anxiety to relieve the Government of its by no means heavy educational burden went a step further and said that maintenance, support and inspection of schools, including technical schools, should also form a part of the duties of the new Corporation. His Honor was, however, in favour of the provision for grants in aid of primary education, and Dr. Banerjee's amendment was accordingly carried. So long as money for the purpose is available there could be no rational objection to the provision. But as every body knows the facts are quite otherwise. The Hon'ble Dr. Mohendro Lal Sircar rightly thought it would be a fraud on the ratepayers to divert any portion of the Municipal funds to educational purposes, while important and comprehensive sanitary works remained unfinished. The Honorable the Advocate-General did not think the time had arrived for these amendments.

If he were perfectly satisfied that there were funds sufficient for other pressing requirements, or that they were not at all required for sanitary purposes, then the question involved in the amendments might arise; but so much money was required for sanitary and other purposes, that he protested against enlarging the areas in which Municipal funds should be spent. He thought it should be confined towards promoting "public safety, health, and convenience." He would ask the Council, when they had the broad fact staring them in the face that they required money for other pressing purposes, not to think of opening out a new source of expenditure.

JUST on the same ground Dr. Banerjee's amendment providing for "contribution to any neighbouring Municipality for sanitary purposes" is objectionable. But it was carried nevertheless, because it endorsed and supported the guiding principle of the Amalgamation itself. Calcutta will now be required not only to look after its own sanitary arrangements for which it is admittedly unfitted, but of the suburbs as well as of any other Municipality in its neighbourhood.

Sir Alfred Croft moved for a "provision of free libraries." How free libraries are likely to improve the sanitation of the town, or how they are an essential ingredient of "public safety, health and convenience," we are unable to understand. Sir Alfred Croft's motion was quietly carried.

AT the close of the usual business of the meeting His Honor the President informed the Council that the Select Committee were not ready with their report on the rest of the Bill, but that whenever it was ready, a formal meeting of the Council will be called to receive it.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

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Government Notifications

Calcutta Gazette,—*15th February, 1887.*

GENERAL.—Mr E B Harris, C.S., has been granted by Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India an extension of furlough for three days.

Mr H P Peterson, Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Dacca, is appointed to act as District and Sessions Judge of Rungpore, during the absence, on leave, of Mr J R Hallett, or until further orders.

Mr C P Casperaz, Officiating Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Bhaugulpore, is allowed leave for ten days, under section 72 of the Civil Leave Code, with effect from the 17th instant.

Mr E H Ruddock, Magistrate and Collector, Rajshahye, is allowed furlough for eighteen months, under section 50 of the Civil Leave Code, with effect from the 1st May next or such subsequent date as he may avail himself of it.

Babu Nowrangi Lal, Special Deputy Collector on Rutwara work in Shahabad, is allowed leave for twenty five days, under section 72 of the Civil Leave Code.

Moulvi Ghulam Ellahi, Sub Deputy Collector on Excise work in Bhaugulpore, is allowed leave for fifteen days, under section 72 of the Civil Code, with effect from the 20th instant.

Babu Tulsi Dass Mukerji, Temporary Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Rungpore, was employed at the sudder station of the Bogra District from the forenoon of the 16th to the afternoon of the 23rd ultimo.

In modification of the order, dated the 24th January 1888, Mr R G Geidt, Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector, is posted temporarily to the sudder station of the District of Darjiling.

Mr F W Badcock, Officiating District and Sessions Judge, Rajshahye, is allowed leave for three months under the note to rule 2, section 73, of the Civil Code, with effect from the 4th proximo.

Babu Saroda Prosad Sirkar, Temporary Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Furridpore, is allowed leave for twelve days, under section 1382 of the Civil Leave Code, in extension of the leave granted to him under the order of the 20th November 1887.

Captain J H Warren, of the Northern Bengal Volunteer Rifle Corps, is allowed leave of absence for ten months, with effect from the 1st March 1888.

Mr W H D'Oyly, Magistrate and Collector, Sarun, on furlough, is appointed to be Magistrate and Collector of Muzufferpore.

Mr J A Bourdalon, Officiating Magistrate and Collector, Sarun, is confirmed in that appointment.

Mr A W B Power, Officiating Magistrate and Collector, Shahabad, is confirmed in that appointment.

Moulvi Amiruddin Ahmed, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Dinagepore, on leave, is transferred to Backergunge and is posted to the sudder station of that District.

Babu Girendra Nath Chatterjee Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Furridpore, is transferred to Mymensingh, and is appointed to have charge of the Aria Sub-Division of that District.

JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT.—Babu Karunamony Banerji, Munsiff, is appointed to be a Munsiff in the District of Jessore, to be ordinarily stationed at Bongong, and is vested with the powers of a Judge of a Court of Small Causes for the trial of suits cognizable by such a Court up to the value of Rs. 25 within the local limits of the Bongong Munsiff.

Babu Karunamony Banerji is appointed to be Additional Subordinate Judge of Mymensingh for three months, with effect from the date on which he joins that appointment.

Babu Nikunja Behari Roy, B.L., is appointed to act as a Munsiff in the District of Jessore, to be ordinarily stationed at Bongong, during the absence, on deputation, of Babu Karunamony Banerji, or until further orders.

Advertisements.

A Special General Meeting of the Commissioners of the Town of Calcutta, will be held at the Town Hall, on Tuesday, the 28th February 1888, *at* 3 P. M.

BUSINESS TO BE BROUGHT FORWARD.

1. The Chairman to lay before the Commissioners the Budget of Income and Expenditure for the year 1888-89.

2. Baboo Durgagutty Banerjee to move "that the reports of proceedings of Meetings of the Commissioners be prepared, printed and circulated to the Commissioners and the press a week after the Meeting."

3. To confirm the proceedings of the Water Supply Committee at a Meeting held on the 7th February.

4. To confirm the proceedings of the town Council at Meetings held on the 28th January and 11th February.

5. Vital staties for the month of December 1887.

At the close of the Special General Meeting, a Special Meeting will be held to sanction the application for a license for storing jute at No. 67-9. H-1 Strand Road recommended by the Town Council.

ROBERT TURNBULL,
Secretary to the Corporation.

NOTICE.

The undermentioned lots of the Dhurrumtollah Market, the property of the Commissioners for the Town of Calcutta, will be put up for sae by public auction, if not previously disposed of, at the Municipal Office, on Monday, the 5th March 1888, at 1 P. M.

Lot No.	Nature of existing Superstructure.	Approximate area of superstructure in S. ft.	Area of land in the lot more or less.	Estimated monthly rental.	Total rent of each lot.
			B. C. Ch. Sft.	Rs. As.	Rs. As.
6	Lower-roomed house, 2 chandnies	3,748		65 0	
„	Ditto 18 doors at Rs. 3 each ...	2,224	0 12 10 6	54 0	131 0
„	Ditto 1 room			12 0	
10	Ditto 9 shops at Rs. 10 each...	1,653	0 2 4 33	90 0	90 0
11	Ditto 4 shops at Rs. 4 each ...	1,653	0 2 4 33	16 0	66 0
„	Ditto 5 shops at Rs. 10 each...			50 0	
12	Ditto 10 shops	1,734	0 3 1 35	35 10	35 10
13	Ditto 11 shops	1,890	0 3 3 37	42 3	45 3
„	Portion of occupied land about 442 s. ft. ...			3 0	
19	Lower roomed house, 5 shops	...		45 6	
„	Ditto 1 stable and a room ...	...	0 9 9 12	10 0	80 6
„	Tenanted land	...		25 0	
20	Ditto	...	0 10 10 38	45 0	45 0
21	Lower roomed building in ruins	546	0 3 4 0	24 0	30 0
„	Tenanted land			6 0	

CONDITIONS OF SALE.

1. The Commissioner's limit which has been fixed by a Special Committee appointed for the purpose will be kept in a closed cover by the Chairman, and the highest bidder above this limit, is to be the purchaser, if any dispute arise as to the last or highest bidding for the lot the same shall be put up again and resold.

2. A deposit of 25 per cent on the amount of the purchase-money is to be made by the purchaser, immediately upon the lot being knocked down, and in default thereof, the premises to be immediately put up and resold at the risk of the purchaser.

3. The title to the property will be a conveyance from the Commissioners.

4. The residue of the purchase-money shall be paid within 15 days of the date of sale: and in case of default in payment of such residue, the purchaser shall forfeit his deposit, which shall be received and taken as and by way of liquidated damages, the sale to such purchaser shall be wholly at an end, and the Commissioners shall be at liberty to resell the same without any reference to such first purchaser, but at his risk.

5. The Commissioners will, if required, furnish a deed of conveyance, such conveyance being prepared by the Solicitors of the Corporation at the expense of the purchaser, who will likewise have to bear the cost of the stamp duty and registration and of any attested copies of deeds or covenants to produce those that may be required.

6. The Commissioners will enter into no other covenant than that they have done no act to encumber.

7. A lithographed plan of the Market, divided into the lots notified for sale, may be had at the Municipal Office, from the undersigned, on payment of eight annas.

R. TURNBULL,
Secretary to the Corporation

4th February 1888.

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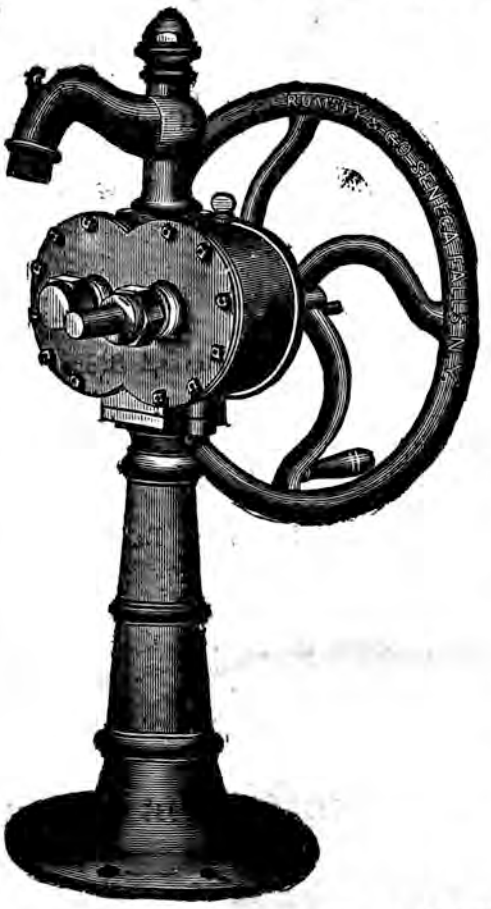

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